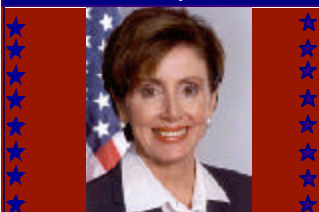




U.S. House of Representatives



Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi

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CONTACT US!

Office of the Democratic Leader
The Capitol
H204
Washington, DC 20515
ATTN: Outreach Office

Phone: 202-225-0100
Fax: 202-226-0939

E-mail:
Dem_Leader_Pelosi@mail.house.gov
<http://democraticleader.house.gov>
<http://www.HouseDemocrats.gov>

The Pelosi Report

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ISSUE 10
APRIL 2004

Dear Friends:



When the Spring time of the year comes around, many people have a tradition of doing some spring cleaning. Some make over their place of residence and others begin outdoor activities. Spring is a time of renewal and revitalization.

Democrats have returned from the Spring recess with a renewed energy and commitment to fighting against Republican assaults on children, working families and seniors. We will continue to propose legislation through the 108th Congress that will improve the lives of all Americans.

I encourage you to review this bulletin and share the information with your constituency and other leaders in your community.

Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi

Nancy Pelosi
House Democratic Leader

Earth Day 2004: A Time to Work Together to Protect the Environment



On Thursday, April 22, 2004 the nation celebrated the 35th Earth Day.

For communities and families across

America, Earth Day is a time to work together to clean up our parks and open spaces, and rededicate ourselves to common-sense environmental measures.

Democrats are fighting to protect our air, our water, and our public lands, wildlife, and forests. However, since coming into office, the Bush Administration has been working to roll back landmark environmental protections.

Data provided by Paul Mohai, associate professor at the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources and Environment. The study, entitled "Dispelling Old Myths: African American Concern for the Environment," was published as the cover story of the June 2003 issue of Environment magazine.

NEXT GENERATION DEMOCRATIC SUMMIT

APRIL 21, 2004

On April 21, more than 250 students and young leaders from 45 states and territories attended the first "Next Generation Democratic Summit." The daylong summit was chaired by Democratic Leaders Nancy Pelosi and Tom Daschle and co-chaired by Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton and Leader Pelosi's "Thirty Something Working Group."

"Democrats are committed to listening to and working with young people," Leader Pelosi said. "We are hosting the Next Generation Democratic Summit to have an open discussion about the issues that affect young people's future and to work together to get young people more involved. We are pleased to have the talent and enthusiasm of young Americans across the country who volunteer in their communities to help make our country a better place."



Leader Pelosi greets Townhall speaker City Commissioner Andrew Gillum from Tallahassee, FL.

During the Summit, students and young leaders raised issues including higher education, the economy, Iraq, and the environment. Members of Congress also listened to a panel discussion with Jean-Marie Lawson, a young businessperson from Kentucky, and Andrew Gillum, a Tallahassee City Commissioner, on how they became involved in public service, and how they encourage other young people to get involved.

"Young people are an enormous voting block, but they do not vote in numbers equal to their power," Pelosi told the students and young leaders. "Only 64 percent of Americans ages 18 - 30 are registered to vote, and only 42 percent actually voted in 2000. Together, we can change these statistics. But we need your help to mobilize youth to vote. By changing the statistics on who votes, we can change the direction of our country."

African Americans and the Environment. Contrary to commonly held assumptions, African Americans often make lifestyle choices that help protect the environment.

Democrats are fighting to protect the environment from attack. Democrats are fighting to keep our air and water clean, protect our public lands, ensure that polluters once again pay for toxic waste clean-ups, and prevent the Administration from auctioning off our environment to the highest bidder.

- 37% of African Americans purchase pesticide-free foods;
- 15% of African Americans consume less meat;
- 16% of African Americans drive less.



Eliminating Health Disparities

“As a nation, our diversity is our strength - economically, politically, and culturally. But our diversity is not well served when health care disparities in minority communities go unaddressed. During National Public Health Week, we must renew our commitment to eliminating minority health disparities.” - Leader Pelosi

House Democrats joined the nation in recognizing National Public Health Week, April 5 - 11, 2004 and National Minority Health Month. The theme this year was, “Eliminating Health Disparities.” House and Senate Democrats have introduced an initiative focused on eliminating health disparities. The Democratic healthcare equality legislation improves cultural and linguistic services; increases the diversity of the healthcare workforce; reduces the occurrence of diseases suffered disproportionately by minorities; and strengthens institutions that provide care to minority populations.

- **In 2000, approximately 14 percent of African Americans, were in fair or poor health. Approximately 2.7 million African Americans aged 20 years or older have diabetes. However, one-third of them do not know it.**
- **Infant mortality rates among blacks are more than double the rate for whites.**
- **African Americans have substantially higher uninsured rates than white Americans (20 percent vs. 12 percent).**
- **African Americans are also more likely to have not visited a health care provider in the past year than white Americans (17 percent vs. 15 percent).**

Despite the compelling need, Republicans cut funding for the federal Office of Minority Health by 15 percent and cut billions from Medicaid, which is often the only source of health insurance for minorities.

Democrats will continue fighting to eliminate these disparities and ensure equality in healthcare for all Americans.

Overtime Is Overdue



Leader Pelosi released the following statement on new overtime regulations that the Bush Administration announced in April:

“While President Bush cuts taxes for the wealthy, he wants to eliminate the right to overtime pay for millions of workers — money these workers need to put food on the table, to make ends meet, to buy a home, and to send their children to college. The President just does not understand that middle-class families need their overtime pay more than ever in this stagnant economy.

Bush Administration officials have lost all credibility on this issue. They have grasped at misstatements, evasions, half-truths, and outright falsehoods to justify their efforts to eliminate overtime pay for millions of American workers. The Administration claims that the new rules protect workers who make between \$23,600 and \$100,000. That is simply not true.

The Administration did bow to pressure from Congressional Democrats and included partial fixes for some workers, but the new rules actually make it worse for some who earn \$23,600 to \$100,000 — denying overtime protection to some registered nurses, claims adjusters, and computer network, Internet, and database administrators, and other specific categories of workers.

The President has lost 2.6 million jobs, the worst record of job creation of any President since the Great Depression, and these new rules do not encourage job creation. In fact, the new rules discourage businesses from hiring new workers because companies can now overwork their existing employees without having to incur overtime costs.

Enough is enough. No workers should have their overtime taken away. The only way to ensure that workers keep their right to overtime pay is to support the Democratic proposals that guarantee workers' overtime rights and repeal any part of the regulation that cuts overtime.”